

Land and Water Fund just does not fit with the policies adopted by this Congress. I would strongly urge the House Members to vote against this amendment. I do not think it is good policy. We do not have the money, and our primary area of responsibility, which is the public lands, is faced with a \$10 billion backlog of maintenance. This is roads and camp sites and housing and all kinds of needs. It would be irresponsible simply to shift money out to the States.

We used to have revenue-sharing and we eliminated it because there was not any revenue to share. The same thing is true of the State Land and Water Conservation Fund. We cannot even use all of it for Federal projects in terms of land acquisition, and it simply does not make good policy to adopt an amendment such as this. I would strongly urge the Members to vote against it.

The CHAIRMAN. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PAPPAS).

The question was taken; and the Chairman announced that the noes appeared to have it.

Mr. PAPPAS. Mr. Chairman, I demand a recorded vote.

The CHAIRMAN. Pursuant to House Resolution 504, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from New Jersey will be postponed.

Are there further amendments to title III?

If not, the Clerk will read.

The Clerk read as follows:

This Act may be cited as the "Department of the Interior and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 1999".

Mr. REGULA. Mr. Chairman, I move that the Committee do now rise.

The motion was agreed to.

Accordingly, the Committee rose; and the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. GILCHREST) HAVING ASSUMED THE CHAIR, MR. LATOURETTE, Chairman of the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union, reported that that Committee, having had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4193) making appropriations for the Department of the Interior and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1999, and for other purposes, had come to no resolution thereon.

#### MAKING NO FURTHER AMENDMENTS IN ORDER DURING FURTHER CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 4193, DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1999

Mr. REGULA. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that during further consideration of H.R. 4193, pursuant to House Resolution 504, no further amendment shall be in order in the Committee of the Whole.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. GILCHREST). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Ohio?

There was no objection.

#### SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. GILCHREST). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 7, 1997, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. CONYERS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. CONYERS addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

#### BARBARIC ACTIONS OF RUTHLESS CASTRO DICTATORSHIP

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, we recently marked the sad anniversary of a dark day in the history of human rights and of Cuba, my native homeland.

It was 4 years ago on July 13, 1994 that thugs of the Castro regime purposely attacked and sunk a tug boat filled with Cuban refugees, refugees who were attempting to flee the island in search of freedom and democracy. It was another example, sadly, of the hundreds already available that clearly demonstrate the barbaric nature of the dictatorship that has ruthlessly ruled Cuba for 38 years.

Early in the morning of that day, over 50 Cuban refugees boarded a tug boat named the "13th of March." They did not know that all along they were being watched by Castro's brutal authorities. After sailing about 7 miles in the open sea, Castro's gun boats began to repeatedly ram the tug boat filled with mostly women and children, while shooting water guns at the refugees aboard the vessels. Rejecting the pleas of mercy from the refugees, the ruthless Cuban soldiers, acting under Castro's order, continued to ram the vessel until it began to sink, but this was not enough.

While the drowning refugees asked for help, the Cuban gun boats circled around the tug boat wreckage in order to create a whirlpool effect that literally sucked the refugees into the bottom of the sea. As a result, over 50 people were murdered, most of them women and children.

Here are posters, Mr. Speaker, and it speaks volumes when we look at this photograph, and these were young children who were aboard that tug boat, small boys and girls who would never be able to live their lives, and all for the crime of trying to flee the Communist tyranny that engulfs the island of Cuba, and because their parents wanted a better life here in the United States for these children.

Whole families, whose only crime was to seek a new life and freedom, were massacred by the Castro regime.

One of the survivors of the attack, Maria Victoria Garcia Suarez, later recaptured this sad incident in an interview. Maria said, "We begged them not to do it, not to shoot more water at us, to stop. There were children aboard, that they were going to kill both them and us. Then we cried out to one boy who was stationed on the bridge of one of the thugs, and we cried at him, that 'Jacobo, don't shoot, don't hit us with more water', and he just laughed saying, 'Let them die.' We cried out, we offered to surrender, but they kept spraying us with the water cannons and bumping against us. Then later, the boat that was on one side, on the right side, hit us hard and we capsized. That's when the boat began to sink on us."

This tragic incident, Mr. Speaker, is not the exception in the brutal history of the Castro dictatorship; it is, sadly, the rule. In the almost 40 years of totalitarian rule, thousands of Cubans just like these small children have been subjected to torture, to harassment, and even to death. The Cuban political prisons continue to be filled with dissidents who fight for freedom and for democracy.

Right now, as I speak, dissidents who dared to publish a document criticizing the Cuban communist constitution and asking for more democratic reforms on the island remain in prison.

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Many thought that after the Pope's visit to Cuba, the Cuban dictator would change. But as he has clearly shown throughout his brutal nature in power, he will not change. His only goal is to maintain power at any cost without any consideration for the suffering and the misery of the Cuban people.

The best way to remember the murdered refugees of this sad episode, these boys and girls, Mr. Speaker, is to continue to fight for the freedom of the Cuban people and to let them know that the United States and the United States Congress stand in solidarity with their daily struggle.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Ms. MILLENDER-McDONALD) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. MILLENDER-McDONALD addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extension of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. GUTKNECHT) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. GUTKNECHT addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE) is recognized for 5 minutes.